THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1863.

MR. SEWARD'S LATE DESPATCH.

The public press, with great unanimity, indicates the popular concurrence in the propriety of the a swer given by the Secretary of State to the re- between the alienated parties" may also become cent proposition of the French Government. It is legal one, and that in the end the answer of Mr. true that there are a few radical journals which, Seward may be as much in conformity with the because unable to find any fault with the contents statutes of Congress as it is with the reason and of the paper, are driven to the sad necessity of carp- judgment of the people. ing at the Secretary for what he omitted to say. For instance, the New York Evening Post has the fo'lowing regrets on the subject :

"This reply, as far as it goes, is satisfactory, but it is not all that ought to have been said. Requested by the Emperor of France to discuss the unhappy controversy which divides the nation on its original merits, he (Mr. S.) ought to have expounded it in all its breadth and bearings. He should have stated the real origin of our discensions, in the wish of the slaveholders to raise a local and class privilege into a national institution, and to extend its baneful influences over all the newly-sequired territory of the continent. He should then have shown how the determination of our free society to resist this pretension provoked the collision of arms; how at the outset we proposed merely to recover the violated territory and rights of the Federal Government; but how in the end the stubbornness and recklessa position of direct antagonism to slavery, until finally the struggle for the maintenance of the Union had become a struggle for the emancipation of a race, as well as for the preservation of free constitutional government in the New World. Our quarrel, presented in this aspect, would have commanded the sympathies of the whole of enlightened Europe; and neither the Emperor of the French, nor any other monarch, would have dared to espouse the side of the South in the face of the universal sentiment of man kind. It is perhaps not too late to retrieve this oversight

As the Administration has no organ to defend it from the reproach of its political "friends," we may perhaps take it upon ourselves to remind the Evening Post that Mr. Seward could not have written such a despatch as it desiderates without making the President stultify himself by holding one style of language in his proclamations and another in his correspondence with foreign nations. We can readily understand how, in the eyes of the Evening Post, the "war for the Union" has become "a struggle for the emancipation of a race." and we do not propose to raise any question as to the justice of our contemporary's appreciation of the position now held by the Administration, when it describes that position as one of "direct antagonism to slavery." We wish simply to say that the President does not understand his "position" as the Evening Post understands it, and, in giving to the war a semblance of direct antagonism to slavery, he was careful, as far as possible, to guard against the inference of the New York journal. We may recall to its memory the opening words of the "Proclamation of Freedom' issued on the 22d of September last :

"I, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President of the United States of America, and Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy thereof, do hereby proclaim and declare that hereafter, as hereto ore, the war will be prosecuted for the object of practically restoring the constitutional relation between the Un ted States and each of the States, and the people thereof, in which States that relation is or may be suspended or disturbed."

The Fecretary of State is the organ of the President in the communications he makes to Foreign Governments, and the President, even if Mr. Soward had had it in his beart to write such a desputch as the Post desires, could not have given it his sunction without serious damage to his consistency and sincerity. This, it is true, would not be likely to efflict very seriously his exacting "friends. but the President must be permitted by them to preserve some respect for his reputation.

Apart from these idle complaints, the popular favor is freely and universally accorded to t e arguments and positions of Mr. Seward, as announced in the paper under review. And we should not emit to instance the significant fact that the popular expression thus elicited by the logic of the distinguished Premier of the Administration has a contre-coup which bears heavily upon an act of the present Congress passed at its last session. Without recalling to his mind the precise bearing of a statute in contravention of his argument, Mr. Seward, in declining, on the part of the Government, to entertain the French proposition, pointed out what seemed to the President a more excellent way. Instead of a conference between representatives of the belligerent parties, to nect at some neutral point, as was contemplated by the French overture, he expressed a preference for the following form of deliberation :

"There is, however, a bet'er form for such con'erences than the one which M. Dronya d. L'Huys suggests. The Latter would be polpably in derogation of the Constitution of the United States, and would carry no weight, because destitute of the sauction necessary to bind either the kyrl or disloyal portions of the people. On the other hand, the Congress of the United States furnishes a constitutional forum for debates between the a ienated parties. Scholors and Representatives from the local people are there already fully empowered to confer And seats are also vacant and inviting the Senators and Representatives of the discontented party, who may be constitutionally sent

The people seem to have been generally pleased with this suggestion, but unfortunately the legislation of Congress, at its late session, has creeted an effectual bar against any such conferences as are described. Until that leg slation is rescinded, it will not be exact to say that " seals are vacant" in Congress, "inviting Senators and Representatives of the discontented party." For Congress, by an act exproved on the 2d of last July, prescribed, as the condition of holding "any office of honor or profit under the Government of the United States, either in the civil, military, or naval department of the public service," an oath which excludes from a seat in Congress any Senator or Representative "of the discontented party." That outh is as follows :

"I, A. B., do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I have never voluntarily borne arms sgainst the United States given no aid, con tenance, counsel, or ence tragement to persons engaged in armed hostil ty thereto: that I have neither e ught nor accepted nor attempted to exercise the func-tions of any office whatever, under any authority or pre-tended authority in bostility to the United States; that I have not yielded a voluntary support to any pretended nave not yielded a voluntary support to any pretended givernment, authority, power or constitution, within the United States, hostile or inimical thereto. And I do further swear (or affirm) that, to the best of my knowledge and ability. I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and done-stic; that I will hear true fair hand allegiance to the same; that I take this chligation freely, without any mental reserva-tion or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faith-fully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about benter. to help me God.

While this enactment stands on the statute-hook it is evident that so much of Mr. Seward's argument as points to Congress as furnishing " a constitutional forum for debates between the alienated parties" must be practically invalidated. Congress poveral hupdred miles.

is indeed still a " constitution a! forum" for the purpose designated, but it is not a legal one under the act of Congress passed at its last session. And both Mr. Seward in penning the despatch, and the Pre-ident in accepting it as his response to the French proposition, seem to have forgotten that, under recent legislation, if there be nothing "legal" which is not also "constitutional," there are certainly some things "constitutional" which are not also "legal." We may be permitted to express the hope that in due time the "constitutional forum for debates

EXTERMINATION.

There are some politicians who argue that the only way to conquer the insurgents is to wage a war of extermination against the Southern people. To practical minds it seems more logical to say that a war of extermination can be waged only after the military power of the insurgents has been conquered, and then no such war will be necessary. But, before the policy of "extermination" is seriously adopted, it may be well for its patrons to ponder the following historical statements, made by their favorite paper, the New York Tribune, in its number of the 24th ultimo:

"Pensive people, who may thus be wrought up to the belief of annihilation, may take comfort and be at peac. The end is not yet. They should remember that if slaughtered by thousands we multiply by tens of thou-ands. The annihilation of a people has heretofore turned out to be one of the most difficult undertakings ever attempted We should find it equally so if we altempted to diversify the contest by a similar undertaking with the South The Chinese rebels have been for ten years engaged in such pastime; but, though they have cut off many thousands of leads, yet there are some millions of the same sort still erect and wagging. Russia has been thirty years e voring to exterminate the Circassians, but the end is yet in the remote future. Spain was forty-two years in killing 12,000,000 of American Indians, yet was very far from exterminating them. The people of this country have been for two centuries engaged in the same Christian enterprise, yet millions of the aborigines survive. The Spanisrds slaughtered with only matchlock and sabre, with interludes of the faggot. We kill with rum and rifles. Yet these two deadlest weapons of a high civilization have failed to exterminate a race infinitely more defenceless han ourselves. Since the Christian era the providence of God seems to have put an end to such entire destruction of a nation as was frequently enjoined on Moses."

GOVERNMENT CIRCULATION.

By the new bill which passed the Senate on the 12th instant the Treasury is authorized to issue \$300,000,000 Government notes to the Banks of the country, based upon deposits of Government bonds as collateral security.

This \$300,000,000 will, in part, be allotted to the several States according to representation in Congress. The other part, or such portions as are applied for, may be allotted according to existing bank capital of the respective States.

While New York, New England, Pennsylvania ke, will not be disturbed in their existing currency relations, the Far West will be provided with such currency as it has never had-a currency based apon the wealth and resources, present and prospective, of the whole Union: the gold of California; the silver of New Mexico; the lead of Illinois; the iron mountains of Missouri; the coal mines of Pennsylvania, and the combined real and ersonal wealth of the entire country.

Statement showing the Bank Circulation of each State, and Bank Capital, January, 1863, with the Government Circulation proposed by the bill of Senator Sher

LOYAL STATES.

LOTAL STATES.						
STATE.	Bank circulation, 1863.	Bank espital, 1863.	Proposed Govern- ment circulation.			
Maine	\$5,300,000	\$7,983,000	\$5,943,000			
New Hampshire	3,325,000	4.732,000	3 546 000			
Vermont	3,000 000	3,916,000	3,256,000			
Massachusetts	29,500,000	67 544,000	30,194,000			
Rhode Island -	6.250,000	21,000,000	-8,698,900			
Connecticut -	8,500,000	21 800,000	10,227,000			
New York	38 500,000	108 670,000	57,868,000			
New Jersey -	8 600,000	8,020 000	5,956,000			
Pennsylvania -	27 500,000	25 820 000	24 114 000			
Delaware	1,200,000	1,900.000	1,296 000			
Maryland	5,000,000	12 302 000	7,476,000			
Dist. Columbia		800,000	284,000			
California			1,868,000			
Illinois	600,000	1,000,000	9 067 000			
Indiana	6,660,000	4,560,000	8.459,000			
I wa	1,160,000	830,000	4,029,000			
Kansas		100 000	+57,000			
Ken'ucky	7.500,000	15,000,000	10 924,000			
Michigan	150,000	600 000	3,947,000			
Minnesota	81.000	300,000	1,351,000			
Missouri	4,000 000	11,250,000	9,593 000			
Obio	10,030,000	5,700,000	13,842 000			
Oregon	****		622,000			
Tennessee	4.000,000	10,000,000	8.531,000			
Wisconsin	2,645,000	3,955,000	4,815,000			
Loyal States	\$173,500,000	\$336,832,000	\$236,563,000			

Actual advantage appropriate	Commission with the commission of	Contracting to the last of the			
Loyal States	\$173,500,000	\$336,892,000	\$236,563,000		
SECEDED STATES.					
Alabama	\$5,000,000	\$4 900,000	\$5.473,000 1.868,000		
Florida	100,000	420,000	771,000		
Georgia	8.000,000	16 550,000	10 234,000		
Louisiana	6,000,000	24,600,000	11,841,000		
Mes esippi -	DE STREET, STREET		3,110,000		
North Carolina	5,000,000	7,860,000	7,149,000		
South Carolina	6,000,000	14.950,000	7,803,000		
Texas		****	2,497,000		
Virginia	19,000,000	16,480,000	12,691,000		
Secoded States	\$49.100 000	\$85,760,000	\$63,437,000		
Liyal States -	173 500,000	336,882,000	236,563 000		
Tatal II States	\$292 600 000	\$429 642 000	\$300,000,000		

GENERALS FOSTER AND HUNTER. We copied on Saturday a paragraph from the army correspondence of a New York journal, representing that the present suspension of military operations in South Carolina was caused by a misunderstanding between Generals Hunter and Foster. We have subsequently been informed, on what we suppose good authority, that there is no foundation for this statement. Military operations in that quarter have, it is true, been suspended, States but not, it is said, from any disagreement between the two Generals in question.

THE NEW TERRITORY OF MONTANA.

This Territory, Mr. Ashley's bill to provide a tempore ry government for which passed the House on Thursday, has an area of one hundred and seventy-nine thousand seven bundred and seventy square mi'es. It lies between latitudes 41° to 40°, and longitudes 27° and 33°, having Ocagon and Washington on the west, and includes the Salmon river gold mices. It now contains about eleven thousand people, chiefly miners. A steamboat is building on the Mi-souri, above Fort Benton, to navigate that river above the falls. This will give water navigation to within sixty or seventy miles of the eastern minos.

RISE IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

ST. LOUIS, FEB. 17 .- There was a slight rain last night The Mississ ppi river to Keokuk is rising, with sixteen feet of water to Cairo. Tae Illinois is open to Peoria, and is swelling rapidly. The Missouri is rising, and open for

TIMELY WORDS OF WISDOM.

Mr. COLLAMER, by some remarks which he of- It was to be expected that the autobiography of fered in the Senate on Wednesday last, made it a man so rich in political experience as M. Guizot the duty of always being true to themselves by re- Memoirs, now in course of publication, a few passpecting their honest convictions of public right sages in which the distinguished French scholar and expediency. There is always in every politi- and statesman indulged in some philosophical gencal community a class of men who cannot under- eralizations on the qualities which are alone adethemselves no strong convictions to respect or con- revolutionary agitation. Recent developments of sistency of conduct to maintain, they naturally radical thought and radical purposes in our own take at second-hand whatever passes as the pre- country have reminded us of still another aphorism dominant will of the "constituted authorities." These "constituted authorities," it is true, never expressed by M. Guizot in the following words: fail to appreciate at its proper value the quality of such a superserviceable support, and are accustomed always to look elsewhere for that guidance and enlightenment which spring from free but honest discussion. They, if not their retainers, are always able to discriminate between a factious and a loyal epposition, for the former is as unreasoning in its antagonism as the latter is unquestioning in with illustrations of this truth, and if we may ference are thus stated by M. Drouyn de Lhuys: its acquiescence.

could be so modulated as not to come in too great ing and toleration, in the several States.

sent incumbents of official place, to take into con- the General-in-Chief: sideration the extraordinary difficulties with which they are called to cope, for this is the dictate of candor. But it is, at the same time, our right as well as our duty to consult, in word and act, for the interest of the Republic, rather than in the interest of those who are its temporary agents, re. membering, in the idea of Cicero, that putchrum est bene facere reipublica, etiam bene dicere haud

It is no part, however, of our present purpose t expand these ideas, which belong to the most elementary notions of free government, but simply to introduce a few extracts from the speech in which they find illustration and enforcement. During the course of his remarks, the distinguished Senator from Vermont spoke as follows, and his words are words of truth and soberness, whatever differences may obtain as to the particular application he gave them on the occasion of their utterance :

"In the first place, I would say that I do not regard this as a measure in any respect connected with the war It is not a war measure. I am the more willing to put it in that light from this consideration : I have observed that almost every thing that is asked for, especially if it is asked for with any degree of pertinacity, is put upon that ground; it is either a military necessity or a political necessity, or you cannot keep the Union together without it, or something of that kind by which we are appealed to, to let our conscience and our discernment go, and obey the dictates pressed upon us. I do not view this as of that

"I am aware that in times of astional violence, and especially domestic violence, we have new illustrations of the principle laid down by Moutesquieu, that power is Treasury notes (7 3-10) always at war with its own boundaries; it is always restless with its own limitations, and making war on thos limitations; and we are constantly inclined to the exercise even of doubtful powers on the ground of necessity when there is violence against us. Go ng to the verge of power is the pre-ent tendency, perhaps occasionally oversteeping it. It is in that direction that we need caution. Now, would it not be worth while to stop for a moment and in quire whether we really have the power, honestly exercising our functions, candidly construing the Constitution, to do this great thing? I am sensible that I am speaking in a time when any sort of doubt about power is received as somewhat dangerous doctrine any way. Still I would say a word on that point.

"Mr. President, some arguments are used, or some

things that are cal'ed arguments, to which I can hardly myself to reply, for tear I shall be wanting in cour.
It has been more than intimated to us in this debate that if a man will not give up the protection of any local interest that stands in the way of the great national problem before us he is unfaithful to the Government. I cannot do it on this occasion I know, too, that men-I will not call bad names-political references, g-t up a project which, with them, is an ideal perfection and an absolute necessity, and they have worked upon it until they have got into that condition when they think that every thing on earth must give way to it, and every thing that does not give way to it is an enemy to the country, and every man who does not sgree to it is an enemy to the cou stry. To add to that, we are told in the Senate that the whole Cabinet are in its favor. Mr. President, it is not many years since a man would have been called to order for using an express on of that kind in the Senate. Men have been called to order for such expressions. Legislation is to be left to the House of Representatives and the Senate; it is the exercise of their judgment, not the authority of others, which is to g ve currency and support to m naures. If it has come to this, that it is to be more than intensted that we are not to consult our understanding, not to include ourselves in reasoning ab ut a matter, but we are to be told ex cathedra by the organ of the Administration that the Cabinet desire d are all in favor of a certain thing as an argument to and are all in favor of a certain thing as an argument to induce us to come into it, it seems to me that implies a degree of subserviency that can hardly be expected. "I intend to consult my own judgment in the discharge of my official duties. If other, gentlemen are willing to let their conscience swing loose from its moorings, and to cease to consult their own judgments in reference to mea-

eures, but rather to consult their own safety for 'ear they will fall into contempt by being charged with being un-friendly to the Government, and will therefore give up all further consideration of the subject, they may do it; I should like to know when that time comes; that is ail.

If all who hold high official positions in the Government had acted on the principles here laid down, does any body suppose that the Republic would have been brought to its present extremity? For who believes that we should have witnessed the adoption of certain measures and policies if all in public station had chosen to consult their deliberate judgments rather than the transient impressions of the hour? "What has been needed on our part," as is well said by a conservative contemporary, " was a wise and guiding spirit pervading the Administration, keeping its purpose fixed upon the legitimate object of restoring the Union by legitimate means. This would have excluded every violation of constitutional principles and obligations. It would have kept the people and the army in sympathy with the Administration; and would have presented the cause of the Union. true, simple, and unchangeable, to the rebels and f the world, a just, wise, and honest cause from the beginning of the struggle to the end. In this light it would have been irresistible; for we should have had the moral as well as the physical power, and the united hearts and hands of all, except those who might have been safely disre-

REVOLUTIONARY RADICALISM.

stand such fidelity to principle, because, having quate to conduct a nation through the perils of a contained in the work we have designated. It is itself to the simple and friendly suggestion that,

"When houset men do not know how to understand and to accomplish the designs of Providence, desperate ones take it upon themselves to do so. Under the spur of general necessity, and in the midst of general helplessness, there spring up men, corrupt indeed, but sugacious and bold, who find out what can be done, and make themselves the instruments of a triumph which does not belong to them, but of which they succeed in appropriating the

The history of every revolutionary period abounds judge from the wild and reckless measures espoused We do not ourselves concur at all points with by a class in our own community, it would seem Mr. Collamer in the application he gives to the re- that the present period of extraordinary agitation marks made by him on Wednesday last. Resist is no exception to the rule. A Wendell Phillips ing as we did, in common with him, the inaugura may urge, with the applause of listening thousands, tion of the "legal-tender policy," as being, how- that the members of the present Congress should ever "necessary" or "expedient," of very doubt- "push the Administration from their stools," while ful constitutionality, we have, from the first, look. several Western journals, especially those which ed with favor on the National Banking System of reflect the sentiments of the German population, Mr. Secretary Chase, if, as we did not doubt, it have teemed with abuse of our present rulers because they do not yield themselves, with an entire conflict with existing banking rights, of long stand- abandonment, to the behests of a fierce and destructive Red Republicanism. If these diatribes But, without raising any question as to the ap- against the Government were printed in English plicability of the observations made by Mr. Colla- they would seem scarcely less than treasonable, as mer in discussing this measure, we have to express they certainly tend to create sentiments and foster our entire concurrence with him in the theory he prejudices which are wholly alien to the genius of propounds respecting the right and duty of an Ame- free institutions. As a single sample of this rican Senator or citizen to canvass with freedom, revolutionary invective, proceeding from radical if always with candor, the measures of the present German journals, we cite the following extract equally with those of every preceding Administra- from the St. Louis Neue Zeit, of the 6th instant, tion. Doubtless it is our duty, in passing judg- omitting a portion for the gross personal indigment on the acts or recommendations of the pre- nity it offers to the President, the Cabinet, and

"Fremont's name is no more heard in Washington. is totally blown away. He, too, has suffered the favorable opportunity to pass by, and it would be useless now to try to seize it again. The people of the East have become so faithless that it is no more to be saved. Once the radical faithless that it is no more to be saved. Once the radical party had the power within its grasp; then they did not venture openly to oppose the President, but they even labored for the Administration, although it was inimical to them. It broke with the best portion of the Democracy, which likewise, by the obtuseness of Lincoln's administration, was driven into the opposition. Now it is too late. Possible it is, nevertheless, that the last days of Congress was not being important and desires there. u.ay yet bring important and decisive things. Still possible is a change of Cabinet, although every member grasps with cramped hands to be money-paying officer. This pos-sibility is, however, very distant, and becomes daily more improbable. The radicals are now in a great minority—the Democracy has the power. He who knows the tough and reckless character of the Democratic leaders knows what hat means. In Washington they only talk of peace. Then a separation into four empires would become most Then a separation into four empires would become most probable. In Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, every where, even of loyal people, one hears the same wish-peace! And the boldest among the 'copper-heads' speak already of an annexation to the Southern Confederacy

under the regime of Jefferson Davis.

"In conclusion, I would simply venture the question, whether an organization of the radical party would not now be in time! The Democracy in every State of the Union is firmly and closely organized. Circumstances may render for it measures necessary which we would have to war against at every price. Therefore, radicals, organize your-

BY BANKS, AND BANKING ASSOCIATIONS

Indebt-duess certificates

\$31,631,780

Do psyable in gold - 6,774.612	
Demand and legal-tender notes 20,189,098	
	044
BY SAVINGS BANKS.	5.11
United States s'ocks \$10,392,102	
Trensury notes (7 3 10) 3,460,162	
Indebtedness certificates 2 543,666	2.8
Certificates bearing interest - 1,143,200	3.88
Do payable in gold	100
Demand and legal-tender notes 130,000	314
\$17,669,	130
Total \$153,637.	174
The Banks of Pennsylvania, independently of	her !
Savings Banks and Trust Companies, hold ab	June
\$15,000,000 of Government securities, viz:	100
HE NEW MEDICAL CONTROL OF A STATE OF A STAT	
Banks of the city of Philadelphia \$6,833, Do of the interior 8,198,	

\$15 031,000 The following table shows the amount of United States securities held by the Banks and Savings

Institutions of Massachusetts, September 30, 1862 BY BANKS. 7 3 10 Treasury notes . \$11,597,438 per cent. bonds, 1881 . 8.017, 87 per cent 5-20 bonds per cent. bonds - -308,000 6 per cent. Treasury notes One year cerdificates - -7,268,970 7,618,950 Deposits with Ass't Treasurer 7 3 10 Treasury notes - -1.596 400

6 per cent. bonds, 1851 6 per cent 5-20 bonds per cent. bonds . ti per cent. Treasury notes One year certificates - -421,987 Deposits with Asa't Treasurer RECAPITULATION. Held by Banks out of Bosten Held by Savings Institutions -Total owned in the State \$45,791,002

Total owned and as collateral by Banks and Savings Banks \$48 377 269 The three States of New York, Massachusetts. and Pennsylvania thus hold over two hundred and fourteen millions of dollars of United States bonds and notes, viz :

Mass chusetts Banks -Savings Banks -New York Banks - - - - \$135,963,044 Savings Banks - -

If to these we add the Trust Companies of New York, the Savings Banks of Pennsylvania, and the Banks of Maryland, Connecticut, Ohio, &c., the aggregate will be found probably to exceed three hundred millions of dollars.

Hop. J. J. CRITTENDEN has written a letter to Governor Robinson, of Kentucky, counselling moderation. He says:
"Fight the proclamation with resolutions and the rebels with bayonets."—Exchange paper.

Such coursel was worthy of the venerable statesman Kentucky, but we are sure that Governor Robinson did not need it. We will fight the proclamation with resolutions and in every other constitutional way, but we shall not, in lighting it, go outside of the Constitution for weapons.

Saturday, having been in section sixty-seven wor or do any thing to weaken the rightsons warfare waged for the suppression of the rebellion.—Louisville Journal.

THE FRENCH PROPOSITION.

The reader will find in another part of to-day's adopted by that body on the 10th instant.

From the despatch of M. DROUYN DE LHUYS, under date of the 9th ultime, it will be seen that between authorized representatives of the two contending parties to our civil war, in which their reciprocal complaints and purposes could be made the subject of discussion and review. The advantages which in the opinion of the French Government might be expected to result from such a con-

"Reciprocal complaints could be examined into at this meeting. In place of the accusations which North and South stituted an argumentative discussion of the interests which divide them. They would seek out, by means of well-ordered and profound deliberations, whether these interests are definitively irreconcilable; whether separation is an extreme which can no longer be avoided, or whether the memories of a common existence, whether the ties of any kind which have made of the North and of the South one whole Federative State, and have borns them on to so high a degree of prosperity, are not more powerful than the causes which have placed arms in the hands of the two

This proposition is rightly supposed by the gesting "the opening of a negotiation which would bilities of the American people, the French Gov- tion of civil and personal freedom. ernment expressly declares that it "does not at all question the right of the Federal Government to decline the co-operation of the great maritime Powers of Europe" in the settlement of our internal dispute. The proposition in question is sub-

It is impossible to overlook the frank and friendly spirit which breathes in these respectful representations. They are evidently inspired by considerations at once of humanity and of just regard for the honor and welfare of the American people. If there was a time in the world's history when one nation looked with complacency on the sufferings and misfortunes of another with a view to take advantage of those misfortunes, that time has passed away under the sway of those influences which now make the inter-communion of nations a bond of mutual sympathy, welded by relations of mutual interest. Nations now thrive in proportion to the prosperity of their neighbors, and no longer hope to resp profit from the desolations which, in visiting a single member of the Commonwealth of States, spread suffering and loss throughout that entire spread suffering and loss throughout that entire spread suffering and loss throughout that entire opposite the lower edge of Vicksburg to opposite Warrenmake the inter-communion of nations a bond of

UNITED STATES BONDS AND NOTES.

The following is an efficial statement of the amount of United States securities owned by the Banks of the State of New York, January 19, 1863:

The SECRETARY OF STATE, in declining, on the part of the Executive, to accede to the recomment, flavoring the Executive, to accede to the recomment. Flavoring the entire of the generous and humane spirit in which it is conceived, while at the same time he frankly or fail into our hands as a prize. So far this is great acknowledges the considerations which the generous are time he frankly or fail into our hands as a prize. So far this is great acknowledges the considerations which the generous and humane spirit in which it is conceived, while at the same time he frankly gain. The SECRETARY OF STATE, in declining, on the Banks of the State of New York, January 19, 1863 : acknowledges the considerations which, apart from motives of friendship, may be said to justify the solicitude naturally and necessarily cherished by the Emperor of the French, in view of the fact that "the people of France are known to be faultless sharers with the American nation in the misfortunes and calamities of an unhappy civil war."

The objections which are urged by Mr. SEWARD attach, it will be seen, rather to the form than the substance of the French proposition. He argues that a conference such as is suggested, if held for the discussion of complaints and purposes that have on one side and in one event a dissolution of the Union as a possible eventuality, would be without constitutional sanction, and that the results of this conference could have no binding effect on either of the contending parties. The only manner in which the parties can come together for a consultation involving such important national interests, should be sought, he holds, in the return of Senators and Representatives from the revolted States to their vacant scats in Congress, where they can not only discuss and take binding action on the differences existing, but call a Convention of all the States for altering and remodelling the Constitution of the United States. Attention is called to is unlikely that the rebels will be permitted to fortify the fact that Senators and R presentatives of Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, and Virginia, and Maryland, and parts of Louisiana, States claimed by the insurgent authorities, are already present in that body, and are taking part in the discussion of gunboata might pass through comparatively out of danger; the troubles which afflict the country.

We cannot doubt that the Erench Government, in common with the American people, will concur \$6,071,587 in the propriety, not to say the necessity, of the answer which has thus been made to this proposition, emanating from a Power which, no less on this than on former occasions, has given traditional proof of friendly feelings towards the United States. It will serve to mark the continued existence of those feelings, alike by the conciliatory manner in which it has been proposed on the one part and declined on the other.

THE RECENTLY NOMINATED GENERALS. It is reported that the Senate, when in Executive session on Thursday night, resolved to send back to the President all the nominations for Major and Brigadier Generals which he has made to that body for some months past, in order that the number may be reduced in accordance with the new law, which proposes to add to the present number - \$15 031,000 twenty Major Generals and fifty Brigadiers. The course adopted by the Senate, in returning the entire list of nominations, amounting probably to three times the number authorized, was deemed more respectful to the President than if that body had reduced the number of the list without consultation or reference to the Chief Magistrate,

A BRUSH IN LOUISIANA.

CHICAGO, FEB. 17 .- A Cairo : pecial despatch says that on Wednesday last a secuting party met a body of the enemy five miles back of Lake Providence, where a warm engagement ensued, in which the United States forces lost a few men, while many rebels were killed, and thirty two

The McDowell Court of Inquiry adjourned sine die on Saturday, having been in session sixty-seven working days. The finding will not be made public until it has been sub-mitted to the President.

WISE WORDS OF A SAGACIOUS RULER.

On the 25th ultimo the Emperor of the French Intelligencer a copy of the correspondence which distributed the extraordinary premiums awarded evident that he belongs to the number of those who would be replete with maxims of political saga- has taken place between the Government of the to the French exhibitors in the late World's Fair, are able to reconcile the obligations of loyalty with city. On a former occasion we cited from his United States and the Government of France on held at London. This distribution was made by the subject of mediation or other measures looking the Emperor the occasion for the delivery of a conto the termination of the existing civil war. These gratulatory address, in the course of which he papers were laid before the Senate on Thursday gave utterance to the following political observalast, in response to a resolution calling for them, tions. We translate from the text of the discourse, as found in the Paris Moniteur:

"If fore go nations are still in a condition to envy us many useful things, we also have much to learn of them You must, in fact, have been struck in England with the the proposition of the French Government limits itself to the simple and friendly suggestion that, without any cessation of hestilities, informal conferences should be opened at some neutral point the fundamental bases on which seciety always respects the fundamental bases of the funda liberty, without restriction, which is accorded to the manirepore. For this very reason it does not destroy but ame-horates; it bears in its hand not the brand which sets on fire. but the torch which enlightens; and, in the enterprices of private life, (the spontaneous activity of the individual put-ting itself forth with unwearied ardor,) the Government is relieved from the task of being the sole promoter of the vital forces of the nation; and so, instead of regulating every thing, it leaves to each one the responsibility of his

These are the conditions on which that wonderful activity, that absolute independence exists in Eugland. France will also reach this point on the day when we shall have consolidated the bases indispensable to the establishment of a perfect liberty. Let us labor, then, with all our might to imitate examples so profitable; imbue your minds incessantly with wholesome political and commercial doctrines; unite in a common purpose of conservatism, and atimulate among individuals a spontaneous energy for the encouragement of all that is beautiful and u eful. Such is your task. It shall be mine to take constant. your task. It shall be mine to take constantly the wise progress of public opinion for the measure of ameliora-tions, and to clear away administrative barriers from the road which you have to pursue

We think it must be admitted by all that these are extraordinary words to be spoken by one in-French Government to avoid the objections that vested with imperial power. They show conclulie against foreign intervention, for in its terms it sively that the Emperor of the French "underexcludes the idea of any such intervention by sug- stands his epoch," and seeks to consolidate his power, not so much by 'orce as by that wise adjustinvite the two populations to discuss, without the ment of political arrangements which seeks perco-operation of Europe, the solution of their differ- petually to harmonize the conditions of political ences." Taking into account the legitimate sensi- stability with those of a safe progress in the direc-

THE SITUATION AT VICKSBURG.

Our latest private advices from before Vicksburg indicate that important operations are now in progress for the reduction of that stronghold. Gen. Grant, it seems, who is commander in-chief of the forces before that city, has mitted to the favorable consideration of our Gov- adopted a method of attack very different from that of his ernment as being one which it could honorably predecessor, Sherman. Instead of rushing on pell-mell to he strong line of entrenchments and batteries, he deavoring to circumvent the great complication of riflepits, abattis, sloughs, and casemates, by pushing down be yend them and seizing the lower end of the chain of bluffs upon which the rebels are planted.

From Vicksburg to Warrenton, by the road, is about ten miles; from Vicksburg to Haines's Bluff, in the oppo-site direction, is about twelve. This line, twenty-two miles in all, we can menace at almost every part—at Haines's, at Chickasaw Bayou, at Old river, at l'errill's or upper bluffs, at the city wharf, as d thence down the river bank at almost any point to the lower end of the bluffs at Warren'on. This is a task so prodigious that the Southern Warren'on. This is a task so prodigious that the Southern officers will see at once how treat is the disrdvantage at which they are placed. They must concentrate a vast army at that point, in order to be ready at every moment to resist a simultaneous attack from every point above in dicated. All this force must now be fed and transferred by the one single line of railroad running eastward to be a single line of railroad running eastward to

opposite the lower edge of Vicksburg to opposite Warren-ton, which, though they may be useless in reducing the heavier batteries of the rebels on the bluffs, may be of

s are, however, that a more sweep ing and less hazardons process is to be attempted than the landing of troops in front of the city—something of the nature of the coup de guerre at Island No. 10. Gen. McArthrida de landing of the coup de guerre at Island No. 10. thur's division is reported to have moved up from the mouth of the Yazoo to Lake Providence, (Ls.) a hundred miles further up. Here it appears the Mississippi is not far removed from two streams, the Bayou Mason and Bayou Tensas, which, at high water, are nearly joined to the pa rent stream at their sources. Thence they continue down in a tortuous path until they reach the Red river near it. mouth, some twenty-five mil a above Bayou Sara and fifty above Port Hudson. It is deemed possible at the high stage of the Mississippi, by a little excavation and clear ing, to turn so much of the river into this new channel as to make a navigable stream of the Teness or Mason, leaving Vicksburg some hundred miles to the left. Should this scheme succeed we might expect to see hair of our army advancing in a fleet of transports to assist Gen. Banks at Port Hudson, preparatory to the grand attack on Vicks-

It will thus be seen that there is a very narrow chance between the robels and their utter defeat. They will not think of transferring the bulk of their army to Port Hudson, for it could neither be gotten there nor fed, if there, without the river. The alternative would be that Post Hudson must be vacuated, the garrison withdrawn for the support of Vicksburg, where the contest could be resumed

th the united forces of both par ies. If, however, this plan should be unavailing, and a few days must determine the fact, then the resource left to us the forcible occupation of Warrenton. Heavy guns are being shipped down to Gen. Grant, with which to line the sheres in such numbers that by dust of more rapid fire and a more liberal expenditure of ordusince and the aid of the gunboats, the batteries can be seized with comparatively triffing loss. At present the buik of the hostile guns are at one end, and once begun our superiority of means and appliances would insure the rest.

The canal in front of the city seems to be looked upon with more doubt. If it should wash out a channel, teen otherwise they must follow the noble example of Eller and as Queen, and run the blockade. The other vessels of the fi-et are represented as being ready and anxious to

on the whole the prospects are more encouraging from the Lower Mississippi, and the appearances are that the accumulation of scientific resources will prove too much for the enemy - New York World

GOOD NEWS FROM VICKSBURG.

Encourrging accounts of the progress of the siege of Vicksburg reach us to-day. An officer of Gen. Grant's srmy, who has just returned to this city on farlough, says that our forces are in full strength around the city, and that the work on the canal is making satisfactory headway. The new charnel hes six feet of water, and the current is rapidly increasing. It is believed that the capture of Vicksburg will not be long delayed; more than this it is inexpedient to say .- New York Evening Post,

RESISTANCE TO THE REBELS IN ALABAMA. It would seem that the rebel authorities find it difficult to keep the people of Northern Alabama in subjection to their authority. Thus the Selma (Ala.) Reporter of a recent date says :

"A subscriber at Village Springs, Jefferson county, Alabama, writes to us that the mountains thereaboute are in-fested with desorters and others who are trying to avoid doing any good for the country. He learns that they number between seventy five and a hundred, and that they have already killed two men and openly rebbed private courses of all guns and ammunition that they could find. We regret to learn of the existence of such a state of affairs in our state, and hope the military authorities will immediately take the matter in hand. They should endeavor to rid the country of all such dare-devils as speedily as pos-

SAID PASHA, the viceroy of Egypt, is dead. He was born in 1824, and was the fourth son of Mehemit Ali. mother was a Circassian slave. Said was educated for the navy and rose to be grand admiral of the fleet. He has made an excellent ruler and has shown qualities not ordinarily possessed by Orientals. Ibrahim Pasha, a mana forty-six years of age, will succeed the late vicerny. Ho has a reputation for practical talent.